SAMUEL NELSON.

DEATH OF A VENERABLE JURIST. The sudden death by apoplexy, on Saturday, at his home in Cooperstown, N. Y., of Samuel Nelson, ex-Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court, is announced. At the time of his retirement

from his official duties, about a year ago, his position as one of the most eminent jurists of this country and of the present age was freely conceded. In the high qualifications required for the various stations he filled during a long and industrious life, he has left no superior; and in respect to the conscien tious and thorough study which preceded his judgments and their clearness and accuracy when delivered, it will probably be long before we know his

Judge Nelson was born Nov. 10, 1792, at Hebron, Washington County, in this State, whither his father had emigrated in a company of settlers from the North of Ireland more than a century ago. Like so many of the eminent men of the generation that is passing away, the studies of his earlier years in the district school-house were alternated with labor upon the paternal acres. He was fitted for college at the Granville Academy, of which Salem Towne, once the preceptor of Gov. Marcy, was principal. He entered Middlebury College, Verment, at 19, and graduated two years later in 1813. His studies for his chosen profession began in Salem, in the office of Savage & Woods, who were both able men, Savage becoming afterward Chief-Justice of this State, and Woods holding a Judgeship in Madison County The firm dissolved when Nelson had been with then two years, and Judge Woods moved to Madison County, the young law student accompanying him. He was admitted to the bar in January, 1817, and began practice in the village of Cortland. His first suits were confined to the parrow arena of the justices' courts, but in trying his first case in the Court of Common Pleas, he detected an error in practice on the part of his opponent, procured a stay of proceedings, and the execution already entered being set aside, tried his case, and gained it. This success at once brought him reputation and clients. His first appearance in politics was in 1890 as Presidential Elector, the vote of the State being given to James Monroe and Daniel D. Tompkins. He was appointed very soon afterward postmaster of the village, through the efforts of Elisba Litchfield, then member of Congress from that district. The same year he acted as delegate from Cortland County in the Constitutional Convention, devoting himself especially to the excision of the property qualification for voters, a reform which very few States had then been bold enough to adopt. In 1823, Gov. Yates nominated him as Circuit Judge for the district which included the counties of Broome, Chenango, Cortland, Delaware, Otsego, Tioga, Tompkins, Steuben, and Yates. This post he hold for eight years, proving himself equal to every emergency, and coining a sterling reputation as an able lawyer and an upright, fearless judge.

On the 1st of February, 1831, he was made Associ-

ate Justice of the Supreme Court of this State. Here, by a curious coincidence, preceptor and pupil met on nearly an equal footing, John Savage, who had guided Nelson's first steps in the mazes of the law, being Chief-Justice. At that period the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court was confined almost entirely to questions of law, equity jurisdiction being vested in the Court of Chancery. After six years' service in this position, he was promoted by Gov. Marcy to the Chief-Justfeeship, and presided over the Court for eight years, at a period when its decisions were quoted as final in every State in the Union, and respected as authority in the courts of England. He was elected a member of the Constitutional Convention of 1846. That body wrought a great change in the jurisdiction and composition of the Supreme Court, making the Judges elective. and extending its jurisdiction so as to include all equity cases, but he was not to feel the decline in the authority and influence of this Court which followed these sweeping modifications. He was appointed by President Tyler to fill a seat on the beach of the Supreme Court of the United States left vacant by the death of Smith Thompson, in 1814. This was more than a promotion; it was a transfer to a field of labor which presented many and varied difficulties to a judge whose previous work, while thorough and successful, had been in a comparatively narrow sphere. He could never have become the great judge he did unless there was growth in him. and he soon showed his adaptability to his new duties. He took his seat first in the Circuit Court State of New-York, when that Court was composed of in this city, and soon dispelled by his acute- three judges whose principal duty it was to hear and ness, earnestness, sound judgment, and erudition, decide questions of law. It was then a tribunal Secretary of State, approved by the patriotic will of the of his fitness for this position. His decisions were rarely appealed from and came to be leading authorities on questions of admiralty and maritime law. In the Supreme Court, his decisions did more than command the respect of bar and bench; they were conclusive and unanswerable. In the famous Dred Scott case, however, Julge Nelson concurred in the decision of Chief-Justice Taney, urging that if Congress possessed power under the Constitution to abolish slavery, "it must necessarily possess the like power to establish it." During the war, his conservatism, as well as his life-long political affinities, led him to regret many encroachments of the military on the civil power, but his relations with the Administration were as harmonious as his loyalty was undoubted. It is a proof of his judicial evenness that his relations with administrations of such varied politics were so cordial and that his counsels were often sought on abstruse questions. Of the four Justices whose position on the Legal-Tender question was overruled by the novel expedient of appointing additional Justices, only two, Clifford and Field, now remain alive, Chase and Nelson having passed away. In 1871, Justice Nelson was appointed by President Grant to serve as a member of the Joint High Commission to arbitrate the Alabama claims on the part of the United States. His special proficiency in international jurisprudence dictated this appointment, and it is but moderate praise to say that in this as in every other respect he far overtopped every other member of that Commission, whether Englishman or American. The delicate and responsible duties here imposed upon him compelled a temporary cessation of his attendance on the bench. and enfeebled as he was by age, it was evident that his strength was undergoing heavier drafts than it could safely endure. Exposure to cold during the final sessions of the Commission, the fires having been allowed to go out, it is said, brought on a serious attack of lumbago. He returned to Cooperstown still suffering from its effects, and spent a quiet Summer, but at the end of that time found himself unable to return to the seat which he never occupied

Some weeks after the opening of the October term of the Court, his resignation was offered to the President. Had it been delayed a few months longer, he would have completed his fiftiesh year upon the bench, a length of judicial service almost without a parallel, but he preferred to resign an office he could no longer administer, and deprived the future historian of the opportunity of rounding some striking periods. By his retirement, Justice Nathan Clifford became Senior Associate Justice, Ward Hunt being nominated to fill the vacancy. Kindly remembrances from his former associates, from the lawyers of New-York City, and lawyers and judges everywhere, found their way to his retreat at Cooperstown. A letter to one of his former associates some time after gave a pleasant description of his manner of life. Among other things, he said that he had given up reading anything but newspapers and light matter, showing that he had become conscious that his days of study and work had passed by, and that he might sit with folded hands waiting for the cud which has come so soon. The of his later life. He had been for some months in good health and spirits, but on Monday last complained of having caught cold. This confined him to his room until Friday afternoon, when he came down stairs, joined in the evening ment, and spent some hours in his parlor. On Sat orday he seemed as well as usual. While listening to the reading of a letter by Mrs. Nelson he asked some question in regard to it and suddenly expired.

So little tremor or struggle was there that it was thought at first he had merely fainted.

Personally he was a man of grave and dignified appearance. It was a dignity that amounted almost to severity, but was tempered by kindliness and good will. On the bench the gravity that he conceived fitting in a judge was never interrupted. Some one called him once "the old lion," and there was majesty enough in the massive head, set firmly on the broad shoulders, and in the keen eyes, whose intelligence age could not dim, to justify the appellation. He was reverenced as much for his integrity as for his learning and great ability. The very atmosphere of honor and rectitude surrounded him. One felt that the robe he drew around him was without a stain. From his associates he received that deference which they could not but award to his age, experience, and attainments, and with some of them his relations were affectionate

and intimate. Judge Nelson was twice married; first, in 1819, to Pamela Woods, daughter of his former instructor in the law, and three years after her death, which occurred in 1822, to Catherine A. Russell of Coopersown. At the date of this second marriage he settled permanently at Cooperstown, where he lived for more than 50 years. Those of his family who survive him are his wife, who was with him at the last, two daughters and two sons, one of whom is the Hon. Renssellaer R. Nelson, United States District Judge for Minnesota. The shock to them of his sudden death is no doubt softened by the memory of his serene and beautiful old ago.

From The Tribune of Thursday, Dec. 26, 1872. A MERITED TRIBUTE. HIS RETIREMENT, HIS SERVICE, AND HIS WORTH.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: The resignation of the Hon. Samuel Nelson, senior Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, after an uninterrupted service on the bench of nearly 50 years, furnishes an occasion rarely found in history for presenting to our bench, our bar, and country an illustration of the benefits which judicial labor and example may confer when inspired and guided by that grand common sense-which a distinguished author has said is more uncommon than the genius for writing good poetry-united with profound and varied learning, great experience, and a stern, unfaltering resolve to administer justice with an ever hand. The public career of this great Judge is closed. At an age of 80 years, with his mental faculties all unimpaired; with a memory so capacious and sound that he can restate complicated facts in cases,long since heard by him, and forgotten by the counsel concerned in them; with a mind stored with knowledge from long converse with books and men; with a body still healthy and strong; with a cheerful spirit, and tastes refined and cultivated, he has gone, as did Lord Mansfield, at a still more advanced age, to the enjoyments he so well loves, of farm and garden and book, of home, family, friends. He has left the bench, not because the grasp and comprehension of grave and difficult questions are beyond his mastery, but because he feared his bodily strength might be unequal to the performof that full share of judicial work involved in the examination of bulky cases, and the writing of opinions. A sense of duty less delicate and exacting than his might have led him to feel, with some of his eminent associates, that if he could have sat with them some time longer to hear causes and bring to the consultation room the benefit of his great learning and experience, he would have rendered a service to the bench and to the public equal to that performed by cither of his brethren. He has, however, thought it to be his duty to resign. He has done so, and now let us glance briefly at his judicial life of half a century and from that learn more of what constitutes a great magistrate than is taught by the career of any other man. This, as the most eminent members of the American Bar well know, is no formal, unmeaning praise, but an earnest, honest tribute, which they freely pay to him; and to this may be added a like tribute, as earnestly felt and most cordinly aftered by his asso-cintes. Several of them who came to their great places amid the storms of political strife-differing widely from him in their political views-soon learned, in the calm atmosphere in which they sat, to feel the noble influences of his grand and just nature; soon realized how sincerely he respected their opinions, with what courtesy and kindness he urged his own, and at length came to know that hand in hand with him they could safely search for truth, and with him labor for the practical administration of that justice which, as a great divine has id, bath its seat in the bosom of God.

The public life of Judge Nelson commenced early. In isit he was a member of the Convention which framed the Constitution of the State of Now-York; and in April, 1823, he was appointed a Circuit Judge, and as such for many years presided in civil and criminal trials at nisi prius. The writer of this first saw him after he had become Chief Justies of the Suprame Court of the an illustrious that its decisions had long been cited as authority in Westminster Hall, and in all the States of the Union where the common law prevailed. The dignity of this Court was not lessened, nor its luster dimmed, during the period Judge Neison there presided perindeed was its authority sensibly impaired until it was obliterated in 1846, when upon its rains was constructed the discordant judicial system with its elective judges, which, with important modifications lately made, still prevails. Neither lawyers nor suitors need be told that with the introduction of this change commenced the decline of our courts, until at length the indiciary of the State of New-York, which had long constituted in great part the glory of its history, be ome a reproach and a by-word. Bench and bar, in accordance with the inevitable law, sunk together, sympa-

thizing as they descended. thizing as they descended.

The causes which have led to this unfortunate decay, from which we are now slowly recovering, are to be found in the misguided efforts of so-called reformers. Under the old system, which produced judges like Kent and Nelson, and lawyers who were the prers of any Bar on earth, the administration of the two great branches of jurisprudence-Law and Equity-so distinct in their natures that neither codifiers nor legislators can abolish the difference-was confided to different persons. Equity was administered by a chancellor, assisted by a few Vice-Chancellors, all fearned men, who alone were authorized to grant injunctions and appoint receivers—a power rarely, if ever, abused. To assist these and those who sat in the law courts, there existed a thoroughly trained Bar, no member of which could open his lips in court until he had practiced three years as an attorney, nor could be become an attorney until be had pursued classical and legal studies. or the latter for a period of seven years. It is strange, but true, that one of the arguments employed to abolish this judicial system was that the powers of the Chancellor, especially that of granting injunctions, were mischievous, while it was powers of or granting unread that the profession of the law ought to be open to all who, irrespective of mental training, could produce certificates of good moral character, and by a radical change in the forms of pleading and practice laziness and ignorance were attempted to be put upon an equal footing with diligence and learning, and with these helps to reform judges were made elective, a hundred full-blown Chancellors succeeded to the place of one, and of the few Vice-Chancellors, and almost at the beginning of their rule, more injunctions wereignanted in the City of New-York in a single year than had been before issued throughout the city and State in an entire generation. At length the atmosphere became so filled with them as to give rise to the jocose but true saying that an injunetion epidemic prevailed.

Before this radical change, which gave us an elective judiciary, a hundred Chancellors, broods of unfledged lawyers, to try their unpracticed fingers upon the harcopies of the Code, and a court of last resort admirably contrived, like Faistaff's civil wars, to offend none but the virtuous, Judge Nelson, who had already as Circuit Judge, as Associate and Chief-Justice of the Supreme Court of the State, won judicial fame, was transferred in 1845 to the bench of the Supreme Court of the United States. There and in the United States Circuit Courts he was called upon to administer branches of law with which he was not in practice familiar; and some of the Bar of the National Courts, who entertained for him affection and respect, feared these untried duties might cause him embarassment. The writer of this well remembers expressions to that effect by leaders of the Bar in the City of New-York, who were familiar with Admiralty, Maritime and Patent law, with neither of which was it supposed that Judge Nelson could have become ac quainted. It was also suggested that his long and severely critical administration of the common law, through its pleadings and practice, might have so educated him that he would fail in appreciating the more grand, liberal and expansive systems of Equity, Maritime, Admiralty, and International Jurisprudence administered in the Matternational

courts; and it was also thought improbable that a Judge TRANSPORTATION PROBLEM. who had been very early in professional life elevated to the bench of a Common Law Court, would be able to explore and understand the complicated mechanical, chemical and other scientific questions, which in patent causes were constantly arising for exclusive adjudica-

tion in the Pyderal Courts.

The writer of this remembers the occasion when Judge Nelson first took his seat on the Bench of the Circuit Court as the successor of Judge Thompson, in the City of New-York. A brilliant and learned array of counsel were present, nearly sli of whom have since cone to their eternal rest. As be proceeded day by day with his work, he learned with surprise that although the calendar contained but few cases, they were so serious and complicated, so full of grave questions, so unlike those he had been accustomed o try when sitting as Judge at nisi prius, that he must devote to his calendar weeks instead of days. Slowly but turely, by the aid of a wonderful insight, which enabled him to carry the torchlight of investigation deep into the most difficult causes, he mastered new questions as they arose, and soon became so familiar with the principles and practice of the law he was called upon to administer, that as succeeding cases arose, he came to possess as marvelous a faculty of reaching the point in controversy, not by intuition, but by a process of in-vestigation and reasoning of which he never tired until he had laid open the case and exposed to view the question to be determined; therefore it was that he would listen earnestly to the arguments of counsel, and ever seem resolved before they concluded to understand the points on which the case must finally turn - unlike those judges, not now unfamiliar to the bar, who seem indifferent to the argument as it proceeds, write notes and confer with each other upon foreign subjects while counsel address them, evidently impatient that the brief time allotted to them may end, that the papers in the case may be packed away, to be reopened and examined only when the little they have learned upon the argument

shall have been utterly forgotten.
It was, on the contrary, the habit of this great Judge to labor most earnestly during the trial and upon the argument of causes; and again and again would be deseend from the bench, especially when complicated machinery, or specimens illustrative of science, or models of vessels intended to develop the relations of colliding ships, have been before him, and by their close and repeated study to strive to stand the real points in controversy, that counsel eit that they were addressing a judge deeply interested a the cause, determined to appreciate and apply their reasoning if sound; and thereafter he would so instruct the jury, or dispose of the case, as to satisfy suitors and their counsels that he had mastered the controversy; and it was only in rare instances that an appeal or writ of error from his decisions was advised. Indeed it is well known-and the most emment judges of the National courts have deemed it no disparagement themselves to say-that so familiar had he become with the jurisprudence involved in the administration of the Patent laws of this country-so thoroughly did be investigate questions of science and mechanics -and so sound a judgment was he known to form on these subjects, that his opinions concerning them were by courts and counsels accepted as of greater authority than those of any other judge, notil finally, and for many years before the close of his liabors at the Circuit, patentoes felt that when he had judicially passed upon their rights, they were substantially settled, and ace there came before him repeatedly from distant points cases involving the validity of the most valuable patents in the country, and to his decisions the parties generally submitted without appeal.

On questions of admiralty and maritime law he came to be considered a great authority, and, indeed, he had so mastered the principles which underlie the administration of almost every branch of the law, and was known to apply them so conscientiously to cases after he had carefully studied the facts involved, that the most eminent members of the American bar will unite in saying that, take him all in all, he may be favorably compared with any magistrate living or dead.

For length and variety of judicial service history ds scarcely a parallel in the life of any other man. Lord Mansfield became Chief-Justice of England at the age of 51, and at the age of 81 resigned his great office, after a career as orator, statesman and judge, which has made his name illustrious. If he, while Chief-Justice, was, as member of the House of Lords and of the Capinet, compathed to perform duties not devolved upon judges in this country, it should be borde in mind when sitting there, relieved from the study and administration of several most difficult branches of the law, which Judge Nelson was obliged, in his judicial place, to master and administer. And to proceed with the paraled, it was and is the opinion of many of our most thoughtful men that if he, at a most critical and eventful period of our history, had been nominated to the highest office in the gift of our people, a terrible war might have been averted. He had nover, when tried, been found wanting; and when the coolness and wisdots and deep insight of the diplomatist were needed to deal with questions which involved not only the law of nations, but national honor, the solid sense of an honest coray which runkled the to bearts and disturbed the judgments of millions of people; and to this great and substantially last public duty of his life he brought to the solution of the questions involved so much o gentleness and courtesy, coupled with such sagacity and mental power, so much persuasiveness and fearning, and such conscientions frankness, that every British member of the Commission yielded to him respect and confidence, and every American member admiration

Devoted to this great National service, he consed t se thoughtful of his health, and a severe cold taken near its close for a time subjected him to painful consequences, from which he but slowly recovered. He is now, and for some time past has been-in the erectness and carriage of his figure, in the clearness and strength of his intellect, in his cheerfulness-much as he was 20 years ago. There is a natural curiosity to learn what are the peculiarities of temper, of habits of life, of the few who have carried their great labors with so firm a poise to the age of 80 years. In social intercourse he was over gentle, courtly, genial, never descending to a familiarity which encouraged the alightest disrespect; and nover repelling that close intereourse of friendship which yields to life its greatest joy. He was ever master of his appetites; and though not rejecting the food and the wine which strengthen the body and make glad the heart, he was sparing of the former, and with epicurean taste selected rom the latter the most pure and delicate. In the court-room, he could execute an iron will with a mildess of expression and of language, back of which those who knew him well could read unalterable firmness. But whether on the bench or at the domestic fireside, in the saloon of fashion, or at the banquet table, or upon long and wearisome travels, never was he forgetful of the rights of others, or of that true dignity and high breeding which awe and command the valgar, and win the respect and admiration of the best of our race.

It is a remarkable fact, that although comparatively few were associated with him, verymany who have but slightly known him regard him with feelings of affection. He formed his opinions of men slowly, and if unfavorably, rarely expressed them, and then not un-kindly, but with gentleness. When Lord MansCold resigned in 1788 and the bar desired to testify its appreciation of his character, it was thought wise not to call meeting of the whole bar of England, as in that case it would have been necessary to call upon Sir John Scott, then Attorney-General, to proside, who was supposed to be willing, as the phrase was, to "vilipend" him, and hence a meeting was, to 'tillow's bench bar was called, at which Erakine of the King's Bench bar was called, at which Erakine long its recognized leader, presided. If it were practicable to call a meeting of the entire American bar upon this similar event in the life of Judge Nelson, it is safe to affirm that no eminent member of it speaking from his heart, would fail a confirm all that had been said of him. All would teatry to their respect and admiration for this great Judge, and all would unite in the hope that the evening of his life might be long and cheerful, undisturbed by infirmity or cares, the fitting termination and reward of a judicial career, long, laborious and irrepresentable.

15, 1872.

THE BOARDS OF ALDERMEN DISAGREE.

At a meeting of the Board of Assistant Aldermen, on Saturday, an important resolution came up for concurrence which was passed the day before by the Board of Aldermen, to polition Congress for two million dollars to expend in the opening of the Hariem River and Spuyten Duyvil Creek to navigation. Several members of the Board opposed concurrence on the ground that the passage of the resolution by the Superior Board was a foolish act, inasmuch as Congressmen would surely think such a request an impudent one and would surely think such a request an impudent one and decline to comply with it when they are told that the memory subscribed by patriculo officers at the beginning of the war had been given without a thought of its being returned in the manner proposed. The resolution was accordingly laid on the table.

An ordinance was passed ordering that pawnbrokers shall take out a \$50 lecense for their business, and that a license will be revoked by a poarsetton for receiving stolen goods.

the reports. It may now be chaled that the Free | seemen, or which the stop near another

MEETING OF WESTERN AND SOUTHERN CONGRESSMEN:

HACH MEMBER PRESENT ANXIOUS TO FORWARD HIS OWN PET SCHEME-THR DEMONSTRATION A FAILURE.

INT TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE. WASHINGTON, Dec. 14 .- The meeting of Conessmen in favor of cheap transportation, held in the Hall of Representatives on Saturday evening. fattore. The intention was to get up a demonstration in favor of the canal projects now pending, and certain other magnificent and postly schemes of internal improvements, but there were so many members who each wanted to get an indersement for his own local project, that the meeting wisely concluded to do nething beyond passing a meaningless resolution to the effect that the members of the House present, whose constituents were interested in cheap transportation, would direct their efforts to bring about unity of action in Congress. In what direction this unity of action is to be put forth, the meeting failed entirely to determine. The truth was, all the sensible men present realized that the collapsed condition of the treasury disposas of all the schemes for involving the Government in expense to dig canals, for the present, at least. If the treasury were as free as it was years ago, a very different kind of resolution would, no doubt, have been adopted.

VIEWS OF THE MISSISSIPPI VALLEY REPRESENTA-TIVES ON THE SUBJECT OF RAPID AND CHEAP TRANSPORTATION-DISCUSSION ON THE MERITS OF THE VALIDUS IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS-A RESOLUTION URGING UNITY OF ACTION ADOPTED.

[GENERAL PRESS DISPATCIL] Washington, Dec. 13 .- The meeting called for this evening in the Hall of the House of E-presentatives, to compare views on the subject of rapid and chesp transportation, was presided over by Representative Dunnell of Minnesota. Representatives Clements of Illinois and Stone of Missouri were chosen Secre tarles. Fifty or sixty representatives were present, together with Senators Aicorn of Mississippi and Steven-

son of Kentucky. Representative Sypher of Louisiana read the call for the meeting, which he said was signed by over 100 members. This meeting, he remarked, was not for the purpose of committing any individual to any particular project. The East was interested in this question equally with the great West and South. In his judgnent, the improvement of the national channels was the first question to which they should address themseives. These would secure the end they sought, to a greater degree and at less expense to the country, than any other project of artificial means which could be devised. After speaking of the vast products of the Mississippi Valley, showing the excess of products seeking Eastern and European markets, being in amount one-tenth of the gross yield of cereals, he said that these cereals were transported by three great water routes, namely, the St. Lawrence, the Hudson, and the Mississippi Rivers. The average freight rates per bushel and time of transit are as follows: From Chicago to Liverpool, by the St. Lawrence route, 45 cents per bushel and 53 days' time; by the Hudson River route, 49 cents per bushel and 53 days' time; by the Mississippi, from St. Louis, 37 cents per bushel and 30 days' time. The two first-named routes were icebound five months out of the 12, whereas the lastnamed was practicable the entire year. While he was an advocate, and pressed the advantages of the Miselssippi route, he desired it to be distinctly understood that he did not antagonize it with other projects. He spake especially of the necessity of the Fort St. Patlip Canal, the natural depth jof water at the mouth of the Mississippi being only 14 feet. The Government dredgeboats have maintained a depth of from 17 to 20 feet, but this was not trustworthy. He continued to speak at length on the importance of this subject, and of the great advantages not only to the people of the Mis-

steatopi Valley but to the cutive country.

Representative Harris of Virginia spoke of the imrovement of the James River and Kanawha Canal, which would connect the Kanawha River with the Atlantic, affording the great West an outlet to the sea. This work was favored by many of those who framed our Government, including Gen. Washington himself-a Government, including Gen. Washington himself—a practical engineer. A survey had been made by order of the Government, and all the engineers reported as to its feasibility. It would not cost over \$17,009,009 or \$20,009,009. This sum was not large as compared with the benefits which would accrue from it. Water communication, though slow and tedious, was the only cheap transportation. Liverpool was nearer by 1,000 miles, by way of Norfolk than by way of Norfolk and by washington of all the improvement projects and to give such of them as were proper his cordial support. They were great national questions, and must not be transchass alone of interest to the Mississippi Valley, but as of advantage to

national questions, and must not be treated (as slone of interest to the Missistippi Valley, but as of advantage to a common country and a common deathry.

Representative Cobb of Kansas said he should like to know whether this was a caucus of members residing in the Mississippi Valley, met to consider the interests of test section of country and not the merits of the James River and Kanawas Canal.

Mr. Harris replied that he did not wish to intrude himself on the caucus, and imagined that he was at lib-

himself on the caucus, and imagined that he was at lib-erty to speak of one of the great means of transporta-tion, as he was inot aware the call was exclusive in its

character.

Mr. Syphor here interposed, saying to his friend from Virginia, and all others, that the call did not ex-clusively apply to the interests of the Mississippi Valloy. This question was National and could not be made secsentative Burchard of Illinois came here

rom virginia, and an chers, that the call do not exclusively apply to the interests of the Mississippi Valley. This question was National and could not be made sectional.

Representative Burchard of Illinois came here representing a constituency deeply interested in this transportation question. He did not suppose the object was to sgree upon any particular plan, but that every grutisman was at liberty to express its viewa, and that he would acquire knowledge for future consideration, with a view to acting intelligently on such measures as might be brought before the House, He did not think it predents to agree on any plan. In fact, was impossible deen appointed by the Speaker, consisting of gentlement from the West and the South, who were to take charge of all matters relating to railways and canals, freight, and inhand transportation. He should be happy to hear more fully the view of gentlemen either before or after that Committee shall make a report.

Representative Crittenden of Missouri felt gratified in socing so many of all parties meeting together for the common elevation of our country, from Malion to Callfornia, lifting it from the valley of sectionalism to the broad pian of nationality. He was here to cooperate with anybody, provided they could so act as to carry their projects. Congress had given millions to railroad companies, and, while he did not make war upon them, he thought now was the time for those living in the Mississippi Valley to apply to Congress to give them suah assistance as would develop the great resources of the West, commencing where the Mississippi takes its rise, to where it finds its outlet, and removing the obstruction at the mouth of that river. He hoped they would all agree, before they left Washington, upon some plan satisfactory to the whole country.

Mr. Loughridge of Iowa was glad ito see so many members here from the Mississippi valley. Wo one part the supplies produce.

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Representative Standard to th

Mr. Stanard replied, as soon as men and money could do it.

Mr. Clark said the time had come when the West would demonstrate that there is a West. He was in favor of the James River and Kanawha Canal; in favor of the Ht. Lawrence route and the Atlantic and Great Western Catral, and he favored the improvement of the harbor of Galveston, and now he asked his Eastern friends to open up the Missispip River to the people of that valley. He then offered the resolution to which reference has already been made.

After a brief debate the Chair declared it to be out of order, as he did also a resolution offered by Representative Fort of Illinois providing for the appointment of a committee of nine to collect information as to the facilities and cost of transportation by the various proposed ways of communication.

Mr. Ever said he had supposed the object of the

ways of communication.

Mr. Fort said he had supposed the object of this meeting was to put matters in such a shape as would produce unity of action, and thus secure results.

Representative McNutta of Illinois said he had attended a Cheap Transportation Convention in Missouri, without results, and now he had been tayled hither to hear spacehes and to compare views. It struck him

that it was best to quit talking and to do something. He was now ready to commence the fight and continue it. If gentlemen of the East shall, as intimated, attempt to control legislation, the west and South should unite to control Congress in the performance of the right. Let it be said that the West and the South have as much power as the East, and will use it.

Beorgaentative McLeas of Texas offered the following resolution:

Representative McLens of Texas offered to electronic resolution:

Remired, By this meeting, that the members of the House of Representations are interested in chem transportation, with direct their effects to bring about a unity of action on the part of and members in the heristation of Congress.

Representative Holtman of Indiana alluded to the fact that the Committees of River and Harbor Improvements had been formed controlled by Western members, and that appropriations made for the Musasseppi River, including the intervening lanes of communication, had been in fair proportion to the appropriations for such purposes.

from the purposes.

Mr. Wilson of Iowa said the East was as much interested as the West in such improvements, and ne was satisfied that the Western members were a out, and must support these measures, which would benefit the agricultural interests. The question was not bow banch money abould be speak, but how far Congress should go ?

iniach money should be speak, but now har considerational go?

Objection was raised to Mt. McLeun's resolution, but the Chair decided it to be in order.

Mr. Purmap of Florida, after saying that the South had interests in common with the West, remarked that if he came from the Mississippi Valley he would, in company with others, domand the improvement of that river, and organize a caucus and make that cancas apower behind toe throne, and would carry the measure irrespective of money or sections.

Mr. McLean's resolution was agreed to.

Mr. McNulta of Hunols offered a resolution that when this meeting adjourns it adjourn to meet three weeks.

Mr. McNulta of Hunels offered a resolution that when this meeting adjourns it adjourn to meet three weeks from to-night, when it will take into consideration the propriety of forming a permanent organization in the XLAHd Congress in favor of cheap transportation, and will take means for its accomplishment.

Pending the resolution a motion was made and carried to adjourn. It is understood that future meetings will be held at the call of the Chairman.

A GLIMPSE AT MORMONISM.

A LECTURE BY BRIGHAM YOUNG'S NINETEENTH WIFE-MORMON RITES-A CORRECT LIST OF THE

PROPHET'S WIVES AND CHILDREN. Mrs. Ann Eliza Young, the last and recently livorced wife of Brigham Young, told the story of her life at Denver, Colorado, in a public lecture, last Wednesday evening. The Deacer News, which reports the lecture at length, says her manner was quiet and of the next hundred years. If they straightforward, creating a very favorable impression. Subjoined are the more interesting portions of her lec-

Her parents were born in New-York, her father joining the Mormon Church at 23, and her mother becoming a convert at 16 years. They had five children, she being the youncest. She was born Sept. 13, 1844. In 1845 she emigrated to Salt Lake. She had never known anything but the Mormon religion from her carlosst years; she helieved it to be true because her parents so believed it. At the age of cigat years, she was baptized by immersion, and again when 16 years old, after which she was received into the endowment hours. The endowments or secret rites of Mormonism, are a sort of allegory in blank verse, paraphrased from the Scriptores and Milton's Paradise Lost. There are rooms fitted up with scenery adapted to the performance of a drama representing the creation of man, his fail, the coming of Christ and the pricathood of Joseph Smith. In the performance Brigham Young takes the part of Elaim or head God, while other prominent men represent Jesus, Satan. Michael, and the Apostics. Different degrees of the Antonie and Melchizedek priesthood are conferred, at each stage of which the candicate is required to take ouths of secrety, accompanied with barbarous penalties, should they dare to violate them. They are also given a new name by which they will be known in the kingdom of God. The entire ceremony is profane and of little interest to the cutaled except where the candidate Her parents were born in New-York, her father joining outles of secrecy, accompanied with barbarous penaltics, should they dare to violate them. They are hise given a new name by which they will be known in the kingdom of God. The entire ceremony is profane and of little interest to the outside world, except where the candidate takes a solemnjoath to "bear eternal hostility to the Government of the United States and avenge the murder of the prophet Joseph Smith." In this ceremony the women wear a long robe which is placed on the right shoulder, is gathered at the wast with strings, and flows to the floor; there is an apron of linen covered with green sitk and embroidered with fig leaves—the nearest approach to the paridialstal apron that is consistent with our climate. The men wear a cap of linen similar to those worn by stone masons. The ladies' caps are of 8 wiss musin, with a vail of the same, which has a pretty effect. The intensely fining appearance of the men in this costume is irresistible. This is the costume in which the Mormons are prepared for the grave.

When she was 18 years old Brigham Young sent for her to study for the stage, and she compiled, although she was not remunerated therefor. She was married in her nineteenth year to James L. Dee; was his only wife, and lived in constant fear lest he should take a second. She had two children by him and was treated most britally. She then submitted to the wishes of her friends and left him. A year later, by the advice of Brigham and the assistance of George Q. Cannon, delegate to Concross, she was divorced in the Probate Court.

friends and left him. A year later, by the advice of Brigham and the assistance of George Q. Cannon, delegate to Conacos, sile was divorced in the Probate Court. She was married secretly to Brigham Young, April 7, 1808, in the endo when he here. Hener C. Kimball scaled them up to everlasting lives. She was charged not to tell anyhody, for fear the Gentiles would hear of it and have him arrested for taking more wives in the face of the law. After the ceremony, she went home and didn't see Brigham for a week. Her house was poorly previded for, having barely the necessaries of life. In the Preadent's household they have what is called ration day. Once a month each family receives five pounds of sugar, one pound of candles, a bar of soap, and a box of matches. The lecturess emphatically stated that she never received \$3,000 a year, as has been reported. The rule with all the propincis' wives—except the favorite—is that all food beyond the plainest fare, and all clothing except what nature demands for the protection of the person, the wife is excected to provide for herself and chitdren. Brigham premises his wives \$1,000 a year pinnoney and a good home; but they get neither.

One of the most interesting portions of this lecture is that which treats of Brigham Young and his family. Brigham was 73 years of age last Jane. He has 19 wives; 15 of these are bis own for time and eternity; the other four are proxy wives, being winows of Joseph Smith. The chiddren of their union with Brigham are credited to Joseph Smith, and go to swell his kingdom. All piural wives are known by their maiden names, to distinguish one from the other. The following is a correct list of Brigham's wives in the order of their marriages: Mary Ann Angel, Lucy Decker, Mrs. Augusta Cobb, Harriet Acon. the other. The following is a correct list of Brigham's wives in the order of their marriages: Mary Ann Angel, Laey Decker, Mrs. Angusta Cobb, Harriet Cook, Clara Becker, Emeine Free, Laey Biglow, Zma D. Huntington, Susan Saively, Margaret Pierce, Mrs. Twiss, Emily Partridge, Martha Boker, Ediza Burgess, Eliza R. Snow, Harriet Barney, Amelia Folsom, Mary Van Cott, and Ann Eliza Webb, the nineteenth and last. Brigham has two larger houses, called the Bee-Hive and the Liton House. There is one wife in the Bee-Hive and six in the other. The rest are scattered throughout the city and Territory. His three eldest sons have followed the polygamous example of their father. He has 45 living children; the most of them are grown and married. There are 22 cirls and 16 boys in his family. His son John W. has renounced polygamy by discarding his first and second wives, and retaining his third. Seven of Brigham's daughters taste the sweets of piural marriages. Two of the seven call Hiram B. Clawson husband, two are allied to Goorge Thatcher, and two to Mark Croxall; the seventh is the second mate of Thomas Williams. Amelia Folsom is the only wife Brigham lives with at present. He has forsaken all for her. Upon this favorite wife is lavished all the care and attention the most devoted monogamist could possibly bestow upon his companion. At present he is erecting a mansion for her that will cost at least 100,000. Brigham loves her better than all others; he is afraid of her, and this is where lies her success over him. Amelia uses the vicest language in her common conversation.

THE REFORMED EPISCOPAL CHURCH!

THE FUNCTIONS OF A BISHOP.

It is stated that, at a meeting of the congregation of the Rev. Dr. Cheney in Chicago he was unanimously advised to accept his appointment as Bishop in the Reformed Episcopai Church, while still retaining his place as rector of Christ Church, Chicago. Dr. Cheney has signified his acceptance to Bishop Cummins. This is just what might have been expected as the natural result of the proscriptive policy which has been pursued. At the same time we cannot but pronounce it to be utterly dishonorable for Bishop Cummins to exercise his functions as a Bishop previous to his canonical severance from the Church. He knew perfectly well when he accepted the office of a Bishop that it required six months to sever his connection with the Church, and he still promised to exercise his office in accordance with the laws of the Church. Whatever may be said in regard to the time which shall follow his deposition, it seems certain to us that such an act at the present time as the consectation of a Bishop is a violation of the most sacred obligations.

Its KFFECT UPON THE CHURCH.

ITS REFECT UPON THE CHURCH.

From The Churchman.

We are glad to mark the effect upon the We are glad to mark the effect upon the Church of Dr. Cummins's act. Aversion and a deep sense of the wrong attempted have brought the Church's members more closely to her. Instinctively and spontaneously, men of all shades of opinion have united in her defense. Especially the members of those societies in the Church to which Dr. Cummins had joined himself, and whose meetings he had the indelicacy, to say the least, to participate in on the very even of this his final set, have promptly and most homorably and most unmistakably rebuked him. This was what was to be expected, but it is none the less gratifying. It adds snother to the proofs of the breadth and the catholicity as well as the unity of the Church.

CONDITIONS OF SUCCESS FOR THE NEW CHURCH. Not everything, but a great deal, depends on what those one are made of, what their record is, what their motives are. If they are men of principle, not changelings, if they are men whose work in the world is really to lift up Christ and not themselves, and whose heart is in that work; if they are men who are willing to go forth to Christ without the camp, bearing His reproach, and have strength to go and to stay; if they are men who have counted woil the cost of this step and who take it out of fealty to conscience, then they are worthy of a following, and will have it.

OBSTACLES TO CONVERTS.

worthy of a following, and will have it.

OBSTACLES TO CONVERTS.

From The Bopdin Workly,

There are doubtless many people in the land who desire a liturgical worship. Ince that of the Episcopal Church, and who, if they can gratify their desire without sacrificing their conscientious sorapies, would gladly make use of a prayer-book. But the open door which permits ministers of all denominations, without recordination, to become ministers of the new church, is such ageomplete surrender of Episcopal ideas of the ministry that it will be difficult for many of the lowest of "Low Church" people to bring themselves to accept the basis which has been adopted.

MIDDLE GROUND.

the basis which has been adopted.

A MIDDLE GROUND.

From The Christian Union.

Their right to form a new Church in accordance with their own convictions will be generally admitted. The new Church cortainly offers a middle ground between ritualistic episcopacy and the non-prelatical orthodox denominations, and may, the force, meet the wants of large numbers of people who fastre to form religious associations in more outire consonance with their technics and convictious.

LECTURE-ROOM HINTS.

GLANCES AT HOME AND ABROAD. LECTURE BY WENDELL PHILLIPS-A THIRD TERM FOR GEN. GRANT AND PLENTY OF THE " BEST CURRENCY THE WORLD EVER SAW "-THE PUTURE

OF EUROPE AND AMERICA. A large andience listened Saturday evening at Asociation Hall to Mr. Wendell Phillips, whose lecture upon "Glances Abroad" contained references not only to European questions and institutions, but to matters as distinctively national as any that could arise.

After referring to his tour in Europe, which had

sabled him to gather the materials for his lecture, he

said: America has been for the last 70 years the focus of

the world's laterest, and the channel in which the world is moved mainly has been that of material growth.

With the single exception of our having worked off the poison of the slave system, the growth of this country for the last 70 years has been material. It has added nothing otherwise to the philosophy of government; it has thrown tittle or no light on social questions; the last 50 years have shown us material growth such as it is impossible that any other 50 years will ever show. If I were to say that the last to years in the world have shown progress each as three centuries previous could not show, and such as it is extremely unlikely that two more centuries will show, I should not overstate the fruth, because this lavish development of steam power and telegraph, and the immense development of the collegrative effort of wealth-molding production, facilitating production, cheapening production-have made such an exhibition of mental force as it is not at all likely that any two centuries will ever see again. But for these elements the British Government would have ceased to exist at least a generation ago. The next century will show us social changes not material in my opinion. Great changes in the relations of capital and labor; great changes to the position of woman; changes nature of government, in the relations of Church State-these are to be the promuent facts well. If they do not come, that boy is born to-day who, like Gibbon, when he wrote the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire "-that boy is born to-day that will write the decline and fall of the American Republic. Because to any thoughtful man it is evident that the grasp of associated wenith in an age when the sin of not being rich is only atoned for by the ef fort to become so; the grasp of associated wealth of bank and railroad and manufacturer on legislative independence, on the possibility of individual independence, is so rigid and despotic and inevitable that unless we evade it by some great social changes it won't be possible for this republic to survive. We see a power possible for this republic to survive. We see a power infinitely grander than that of the fendal barons of 300 years are, infinitely more irresistible than that. To-day Mr. Gladstone said, speaking of the disestablishment of the English Church, "We cannot trust the Church beyond the class of the Government's nand; as a rival power whething 200,000,000 sterling it is too grave a charge to the British Government." 200,000,000—250,000,000—100 grave a charge for the British Government, the Government of the British Government and very supplied to the British Government. 200,000,000-\$450,000,000-too grave a charge for the Britsh Government, three times as strong as ours; and yet
one man, the head of the Pennsylvania Bailroad, Mr.
Scott, wields \$450,000,000, and the very sweep of his sarments as he marches east from San Francisco to Philadelphia is more than sufficient to sweep down Lexistatures as he goes. I look for no safety here except in
great social changes. I believe that the day has gone
out of him on a system of wages; it was possible 200

out of him on a system of wages; it was possible 200 years ago.

I believe that we at home are to see another great accial change, so to speak. God forbid that we should ever return to that delusion of specie payments; I do not think that the American popple will ever wander back to those Egyptian flesh-pots; it is a delusion long since dispelled by the practical experience of the world. We have the best currency in the world now, and I don't believe the utmost effort of any minority will ever bring us back to the old channel. I hope it never will. Hook forward to a currency double in volume, resting only on the credit of the Government—[applause]—with no check and bainnee of commodity, wheat or gold, to disturb the natural relation of its volume, To-day the Englishman puts \$1,000,000 in land, out of which he gets 3 per cent in money and 3 per cent in aristocratic social institutions, and is content. Unless we handed out vessel in the same channel and fight Great Britain with her own weapons, we shall go under. Now, these changes which impend over us are impending over Europe. I think the rapidite in Europe is singed nearer. Britain with her own weapons, we share impending over these changes which impend over us are impending over Europe. I think the respublic in Europe is much nearer, than hany imagine. The republic in Great Britain is much nearer than any imagine. There is but one great bullwark lo-day in the way, and that is land. There is nothing in the Church or the State, or the Lords that could delay for 20 years the advent of the republic, because the same change has come over the masses there as exist here. Aren and Bradiaugh and the misses behind them understand human nature and the claims of every man born on the soil to recognition better than people think or allow. Look at France and Spain. The Due d'Anmale's character and private views are the best introduction of any of the Bourbon family, but even he cannot drag France back to the Bourbon dynasty, and the very necessity of the hour will bring France back into the arms of a great soldier or a great states. he cannot drag France back to the Bourbon dynasty, and the very necessity of the hour will bring France back into the arms of a great soldier or a great statesman. France will follow in the steps of any onergetisman, and the right man will come. Spain has no king or queen to make claim whose character could bear four hours' investigation. She floats into the hand of soldier or statesman from the very want of a dynasty. All the forces of Europe are to-day in wild disorder, and crash and jostle against one another like frigates in a storm. It is a sound century that is opening upon us. We have a great deal of ignorance of one another, and this ignorance has been the cause of wars. The Rebellion came because the sections misconceived each other. We do not wholly understand each other now; until we do, it won't be safe to trust the helm of the vessel of State to any other idea or purpose than that which has held it for the last dozen years. I. therefore, for one, shall be the last to object if the Gen-

therefore, for one, shall be the last to object it the Gen-eral who now occupies the Presidential chair goes there for the third time if he will hold the vessel straight on her course. The lecturer then contrasted the people of this coun The lecturer then contrasted the people of this country with those of Europe, drawing some humorous parallels. The man who has the biggest pile of ordars is the biggest man here, and here there is a possibility of accumulating money; so the American puts money at the top and everything else below. It is not so in Europe, although we think it is. There there is a superabundance of labor. When Horace Greeley saw a man in France working with an ill-shaped instrument to reap with, he went to him and said: "Why don't you get a seythe! you could do three days' work to one." The man said, "Because I have not three days' work to do"—and there is no necessity for planning.

He then referred to the condition of women. There was one thing in which Europe was far ahead of this country, and that was that they knew no difference be-

was one timing in water Europe was far added of secontry, and that was that they knew no difference be tween the black and the white man. He had traveled all over Europe and found the black man on an equality wherever he went, and seeing this he turned away, knowing that he must be at least 4,000 mites from Boscon. [Laughter and appliause.]

A PROPHECY OF SCIENCE.

LECTURE BY PROF. WINCHELL ON GEOLOGY. Prof. Alexander Winchell's lecture at the Cooper Institute, on Saturday evening was the last of his course on Geology, and was entitled "Glimpses inte the Future." Having in his previous lectures shown the probable origin and formation of the earth and th worlds that make up the universe, he in this lecture described the final end of this world, as foreshadowed b

the results of scientific research. His argument was

that the planets were eventually precipitated into the

that the planets were eventually precipitated into the sun.

The comets, he said, were winding up their escers faster and faster, and in the end will be precipitated into the sun. It has been said that there is a continual rain of particles upon the sun, and that by their impact its heat is kept up. But if this was the case, the mass of the sun would be increased, which is not shown to be a fact; again, these failing masses would not be enough to keep up that heat. The returning periods of the cometa are growing shorter; they always come back a little too soon. The earth is shortening its year and drawing nearer to the sun. All the planets are plowing their way through a resisting medium, and many years ago it began to be calculated what would be the end of that resistance. We have abundant evidence of that resistance. It is well demonstrated that the light from the sun is propagated in the form of undulations. The light of each star has trended along its path on the wings of other in some cases for 700,000 years. Through the resistance of this exceedingly tenuous fluid, all the planets of our solar system are destined be precipitated into the sun and become one totally refrigerated mass.

That is the result toward which all these activities are tending. It seems as though all this was but a series of incidents towards the attainments of an ultimate of an ultimate

That is the result toward which all these activities are tending. It seems as though all this was but a series of incidents towards the attainments of an ultimate equilibrium. All the stars have their own proper motion, some approaching each other, others separating. It is said that our system is approaching the constellation Hercules. The conclusion is obvious that if all these sums are executing their movements around centers of gravity, through this resisting medium, they will ultimately be precipitated upon these centers. The evidences are that our sun is moving in an orbit so large that it will take its,000,000 years to go over it once. It has been shown that there was a beginning within finite time, and we have traced a continual progress. Therefore there must be a termination within finite time, however vasit the period may be. This is one of the cycles of matter, and it seems probable that when this end of the period is reached, when the forces of matter stop, he arm of the Almighty will again be stetched out, calma again into motion all these materials forming new worlds and systems.

WHY CONKLING REFUSED.

WHY CONKLING REFUSED.

Pour The Proy Press.

It did not need the letter in THE TRIBUME to satisfy us that the refusal of Conkling to take the Chief-Justiceship was because of his inability to have Alonzo B. Cornell as his successor. Had the complexion of the Legislature been such that the Custom-some could have molded it to its will then Conking would not have refused, and Cornell would nave been Senator. It is well known that after the election a most thorough canvass was made of the newly-elected members to set to what extent they could be depended upon. The Radicals some oven daring to call their souls personal property. It is stated that Gov. Alvord will go into the Radical cancer. If he does so, there can be no better assurance gives that the day of the Onafons-house corruption of our that the day of the Onafons-house corruption of our State politics is over. But just now that the Radical press are busy in praising Mr. Conkling because of the refusal of an office which was of great diguits, it is well to study this toe soproi causes of his action.

would think that the fulcie Government would go | traited States Government which his counsed hold I made but a